MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MUSHROOM GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

MGA

BULLETIN

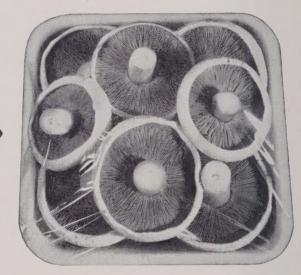
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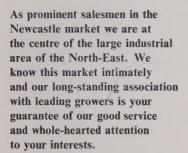
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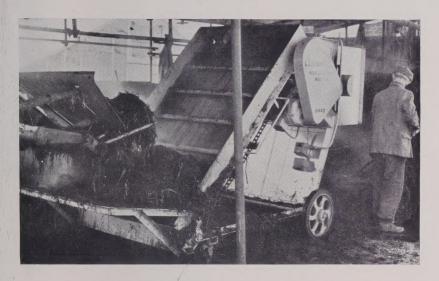
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EDITORIAL

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

There are more things in Heaven and Earth... Last autumn nearly everyone connected with the Mushroom Industry could tell you some fresh tale of expanding mushroom farms or of someone starting a new place, 1,000 square feet here and 100,000 there; the overall picture seemed grim to many of us.

I don't intend to imply for one moment that unbridled expansion is desirable or necessary—I have always argued that most of us would do better to concentrate on improving the efficiency of the plants we already have rather than embark on large increases in bed area which may well lead to decreased efficiency in many ways; however, no two farms have identical problems.

Be that as it may, the natural consequence of so much increase in growing area, one would have thought, would have been a continuation and even an acceleration of the steady fall in prices which have been going on almost without pause for the last 12 years. Not a bit of it: prices as far as many of us are concerned showed a definite, if slight rise during the first quarter of 1960 over the same period of 1959. Did I hear someone say that yields were down? Frankly, after a careful enquiry which included a reasonable cross-section of growers and some large salesmen, the reverse would seem to be true. No-one but a blind optimist would forecast respectable returns if we have another hot June, but the first three months of this year are now history.

The point that I want to make with regard to the foregoing, is that while none of us would claim that the efforts of the MGA are solely responsible for this state of affairs, it would be equally wrong to imagine that our Publicity and Public Relations have not played a very considerable part in this.

I don't believe that the Angel Gabriel could have sold mushrooms for satisfactory prices at times last summer, and of course if we expand production faster than we can increase demand, many of us are headed for the rocks.

But, and this my main point in going into print, if we don't give the MGA wholehearted support all those plans and opportunities which lie in the future—by comparison with which its undoubted successes in the past are as nothing—will be thrown away if members won't put their own Association before say an Oil Company or any other company for that matter, which in the most simple and straightforward terms means looking after your own interests rather than other people's.

We all know that the support which members have given to the MGA in the past, of which the highly successful outcome of the Spawn Levy affair is the latest example, has made it the envy of other branches of the Industry. But there is a tremendous amount which can be done in the future if we all pull hard enough—in the same direction.

P. B. Stanley-Evans (MGA Chairman).

AMERICAN SHORT COURSE

The 5th Annual Mushroom Industry Short Course of the College of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State University, U.S.A., will take place from 20th June to 22nd June. The programme, which includes lectures on production, merchandising, pests, diseases, materials, equipment, etc., etc., has been arranged by Dr. Leon Kneebone in co-operation with the American Mushroom Institute. The course will include a tour of the new mushroom centre and will conclude with a barbecue and banquet. The fee for non-Pennsylvania residents is 15 dollars (about £5 7s. 0d.).

Forms of application may be had from the MGA Secretary.

FANCY THAT!

Grower Members were recently asked for information about the size of chip baskets they preferred and a supplementary question read "If you would prefer a different size, what do you suggest?" to which an unnamed wit replied "36—28—36—about 8-9 stone!"

Calypso . . .

ON APRIL'S EDITORIAL

"Big firms don't advertise—
They're big because they advertise".
Statements like that ran through the whole Of April's Ed-it-or-i-al.
All sounds to me so like the toad
Who watched his feet along the road
Till, wondering which leg followed which He fell distracted in a ditch.
Such Ed-it-or-i-als invite
Plain talking folk to write
And try to solve explicitly
All this confusion o'er publicity.
To this appeal I'm bursting forth
To give this view for what it's worth:—

Avoid a glut, likewise a dearth, By growers getting down to earth To follow publicity's 'vacuum-creation' With gentle 'market-saturation'. Such things as coolers on mushroom farms Remove field-heat before it harms Those Monday cups (or any grade) To hold them back for week-end trade. Packed quite hot (and bulging fuller) They're often sent to Agents' cooler, And, in the travelling getting worse. This cooling must be done at source! Of all those ills this solves the lot Whether you believe it or not!

F.P. (BELFAST).

STUDIES ON THE INFLUENCE OF CARBON DIOXIDE ON THE CULTIVATED MUSHROOM

By Dr. H. J. Tschierpe

Institut für Gemüsebau der Technischen Universität Berlin Direktor Prof Dr. H. Riethus

(The original paper was published in "Die Gartenbauwissenschaft 24, 1, 18-75, 1959)

THE INFLUENCE OF CARBON DIOXIDE ON MUSHROOM **MYCELIUM**

C. THE GROWTH OF MYCELIUM IN DIFFERENT GAS MIXTURES

1. Review of literature

The mycelium of the cultivated mushroom grows only in the presence of oxygen (Styer, 1930; Edwards, 1955), i.e., it is an obligate aerobe. Klebs (1896) proved that the aerobe Eurotium repens can grow and fruit normally down to an oxygen partial pressure of 1.05 mm. (i.e., 0.14 volume per cent O2). There are numerous statements about an analogous behaviour of other aerobic Eumycetes (Porodko, 1904; Brown, 1922; Burges and Fenton, 1953; Plunkett, 1956). The widely held opinion that the cultivated mushroom during the spawn-running period does not need any ventilation (Treschow, 1944; Sinden, 1947; Rempe, 1953; Figgis, 1958) might have developed from these experiments. But as shown in experiments of Brown, (1922), Bateman, (1933), Burges and Fenton, (1953), Durbin, (1955), Plunkett (1956) et al. the growth of aerobic micro-organisms is inhibited by the CO2 increase, which in soils and substrata is always associated with an oxygen decrease. Burges and Fenton (1953) showed that species which are more abundant at depths of more than 2 inches from the surface of the soil (as e.g., Zygorrhynchus vuillemini, Fusarium solani f. eumartii, Fusarium oxysporum) are more sensitive to high CO₂-concentrations than those species which live mainly on the surface of the soil or in the upper 2 inches of the soil profile (Penicillium nigricans, Cladosporium herbarum, Alternaria grossulariae). Species living over the whole soil profile show intermediate behaviour. Burges and Fenton (1953) therefore suppose that the composition of the fungal flora in a soil profile is to a certain extent governed by the CO₂-sensitivity of the different species. CO₂-tolerating species grow in deeper depths, where the growth of CO2-sensitive competitive micro-organisms is inhibited by the high CO₂-concentrations.

Most of Agaricus (Psalliota-) species growing in nature are limited in their vegetative growth to the upper 0 to 4 inches of the soil profile (Hennig, 1958; Bickerich, 1958). According to this even low CO₂concentrations should have an inhibitory effect on the mycelial growth. The same could be expected from the closely related cultivated mushroom. Exact observations about that are not known to the author.

Flegg (1952) observed in absence of CO_2 (CO_2 absorption with NaOH) in some cases a slower growth of mycelium than in the presence of CO_2 and he supposed, that for the optimum growth of mycelium small amounts of carbon dioxide are necessary. According to a private communication these experiments were not further carried on and definite conclusions could not be drawn (Flegg, 1958). It seems possible to us, that the sodium hydroxide used for CO_2 absorption did not only absorb CO_2 but also water and that these experiments therefore were carried out with different moisture conditions.

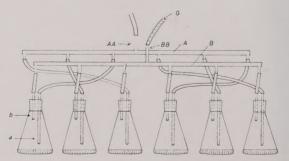
According to Sinden (1947), under commercial conditions during the state of spawn running "no air" is necessary, and Rempe (1953) is the opinion that the mushroom during this period can grow "also in closed jars and in rooms with high CO₂-concentrations". Both authors do not describe experiments and do not cite literature. These are also absent in Figgis's paper (1958), in which it is stated that the growing mycelium requires "very little fresh air" and that "most houses can be closed completely" during the spawn running. Edwards (1955) on the other hand is convinced that a little ventilation must be necessary during the spawn growth period. He associates the widely held opinion that during the spawn running time no air is necessary, with the fact that in practice really airtight spawn running rooms are rarely found and that even in "closed" rooms the air is changed every few hours.

This view is supported by the experiments of **Styer** (1930) and by statements of **Lambert** (1958), according to which, in the absence of air in the compost or in a completely airtight closed bottle the growth of mycelium is inhibited. In **Styer's** experiments however, the compostair was replaced by water, so that the observed growth inhibition under conditions without air could also be caused by an excessive amount of water.

The reasons for ventilation in the mushroom houses are not yet known.

Though Stoller (1945) and Plunkett (1958) criticised the methods applied in the experiments of Mader (1943), Sinden (1958) and Lambert

Fig. 6 Scheme of the equipment used for mycelium cultivation in different gas mixtures.



(1958) are convinced that these experiments showed for the first time that besides carbon dioxide, another physiologically extremely active substance is produced, which has to be carried away by ventilation. This view is widely held to-day. All statements about the chemical nature of this substance, however, are more or less speculative (Mader, 1943; Stoller, 1945; Schisler, 1956; Lambert, 1958).

According to Szuecs (1950), aeration of a mycelium culture is necessary for the removal of the growth destroying carbon dioxide. In his patented method of preparing essence of mushroom, mycelium is cultivated in glass jars on a mixture of peanut meal, peat, N/l sulphuric acid, calcium carbonate, ground wheat and water. For optimum growth air is passed through the inoculated substrate at about 0.40 volume of air per bulk volume of substrate per minute, i.e., per litre of liquid culture medium 24 litres of air per hour are necessary. Szuecs points out that the high rate of air flow is necessary in order to carry away the toxic carbon dioxide.

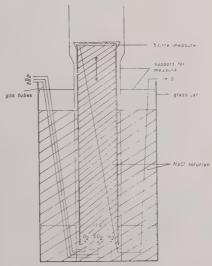
The mycelium-growth experiments, described in the following section, were carried out in order to determine the reaction of the mycelium to different CO₂-concentrations. Spores of a mushroom developed from **Sinden's** grain spawn were germinated on malt agar and the growing mycelium was used for the experiments.

2. Methods

The mycelium was cultivated on malt agar (2 per cent agar-agar, 1.5 per cent "Kirnaer" malt extract, 96.5 per cent distilled water, pH 5.5) under the usual sterile conditions at a temperature of about

77° F. In order to have qualitatively and quantitatively similar starting material, circular pieces of agar overgrown with mycelium were punched out from the margin of a culture, cultivated in a petri dish. One inoculum was inoculated in each 300 ml. Erlenmeyer flasks. Care was taken to work under strictly sterile conditions. For one set mycelium from one petri dish was always used. 4-7 days after inoculation the culture diameter was measured and 6 flasks fitted together for one treatment. For that the cotton wool plugs had to be replaced by double bored rubber stoppers (see Fig. 6). Through the holes a long (tube a) and a short (tube b) glass tube

Fig. 7 Gas-mixture apparatus



passed into each flask. The six a-tubes were connected with rubber tubes to a main tube A, the six b-tubes to the main tube B. After that the nozzle AA of the main tube A was connected to a suction air pump and the nozzle BB to the gas mixture apparatus (see Fig. 7).

After having switched on the air pump, the air of the Erlenmeyer flasks was sucked out and the gas mixture mixed in the gas mixture apparatus streamed into the flasks. At the beginning of the experiment 15 litres gas were passed through the flasks, then 8 litres in each period of 24 hours. In this way it was ensured that the mixed gas came into the flasks. A certain amount of CO₂ diffused—especially in the treatments with a high CO₂-content—into the surrounding air. The decrease of the CO₂-concentration, however, after 24 hours was not more than 10% of the starting concentration.

The gas mixture apparatus consisted of a rectangular glass jar $(8 \times 12 \times 24 \text{ inch})$ filled with NaCl-solution into which a liquid measure (5 1.) was placed upside down. The air from the measure was sucked off through the tube G until the measure was completely filled with NaCsolution. From commercial gas cylinders (nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide) a determined amount of gases passed through the hoses O2, N₂, CO₂ into the measure. The amount of gas was determined by the graduations on the measure. In this way it was possible to make any desired gas mixture. The gas mixture was then passed through the tube G and nozzle BB and main tube B into the flasks. After 12-14 days treatment the colony diameter was measured again (average of two measurements at right angles). The superficial growth was determined according to the formula (Πr^2)II—(Πr^2)I, in which (Πr^2)II represents the whole mycelium overgrown surface at the end of the treatment, and (Πr^2)I represents the mycelium overgrown surface at the beginning of the treatment. Every experiment was carried out with 6 replicates and was repeated at least once. The results were evaluated statistically.

The Editor regrets that owing to extreme pressure of space, Part IV of this interesting series will have to be published in two sections. Part IV(1) herewith will be followed by Part IV(2) in June Bulletin No. 126.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS 4d. a word continued on page 188

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197. During our long spell of poor yields—some 18 months or more—one consultant told us we were not composting long enough.



Another told us we were overcomposting. We heeded both, tried longer and shorter composting and got nowhere. These chaps know nothing. Many months later our cropping suddenly and for no known reason spurted and returned to normal as far as total yield was concerned. But there was this difference: cropping was much faster than ever, with two quick heavy flushes followed by a near collapse. This has meant that we have recently had many crops at over 1 lb. in the first flush and the second lb. taken in from 15 to 22 days. My son, Peter, who is in charge of all our records

(among other things) made the following comment on a recent crop card at the time the compost was filled into the house. "Current composts are not composting properly: there is very little physical breakdown of the long straws. Although these composts haven't got the general very poor appearance and texture of those during 1958, and early 1959, there is some physical resemblance and S.M. is not at all happy about it." This particular crop has done 2 lb. in 16 days. Alas! S.M. knows nothing either!

198. We all know, or think we know, that there are seasonal ups and downs in production. Spring, as one might expect, is one of the "ups". Fred. C. Atkins, now pedestalled as a Consultant, spent a lot of time a year or two ago studying these seasonal trends and "proving" them. He discovered an annual Winter "low", a trough which has become known as the Atkins Dip. At the recent A.G.M. I tackled him on this Dip and told him that according to our Brayton production there was no indication at all of a dip this year, and that all his pet theories have gone the way of all mushroom theories. "There is no Atkins Dip," said I. "Well," said he, "what do you expect? You haven't consulted me."

199. Should all soup makers put their soup in Heinz tins? Should all mushroom growers put their mushrooms in the same make, shape and size of basket with the same covers? This MGA interference with the liberty of the individual is tending to go too far. There are limits to the advantages of co-operative effort. We would all agree, I think,

that it doesn't matter noticeably whose oil we use in our burners and no grower is one whit worse off for bulk buying any one of several equal oils. But packaging is to quite an extent linked up with individuality which standardisation would ruin. Every now and then we test our various markets to find if we ought to change our pack. 90% come back with "No, Stay as you are. Your pack is known and any change would be detrimental to our mutual business". In our leisure hours we are being moulded into one common mentality by television. Please, Committee, leave us a little scope for individuality and self expression in our business hours.

- 200. The presence of so many fruit Squashes and Quoshes prompted a friend to ask why we don't produce a Mushquosh. Presumably brewed in a fur-lined kettle.
- 201. Our compromise between Trays and Shelves consists, as you know, of portable three tier nearly square racks made of angle iron. Originally we had these made for us, but now we fabricate our own from lengths of angle as supplied by the manufacturers. This is so much cheaper that it is almost unbelievable. But there still remains one big problem. Should one try to make these metal racks last as long as possible by constant inter-crop recleaning and repainting (bituminous, aluminium or cold galvanising), or should one regard them as expendibles and ignore the inevitable rusting which takes place very rapidly? In other words, let them rust till they collapse and replace with new? Since some rusting starts, even with repainting after every crop, and as the brushing down, cleaning and repainting is a long and tedious, not to mention costly, process, we have decided on the second course. Had rust particles falling onto the beds been harmful to cropping we would of course have had to repaint. We consider it is cheaper to make a rack every two or three years than to clean and paint up six times a year. I expect the experts will tell us we're wrong. We mostly are (according to same experts).
- 202. It is hard for a man to live up to his epitaph. The F.P. calypso on the "S.M. Life" was most revealing. His researches must have cost him a great deal of time wading through a mass of for the most part unrewarding reading. He had, of course, many visual aids to assist in the cataloguing of so varied a "life" whereas I for my part, in trying each month to whip up a reluctant Pinhead, am handicapped by having forgotten more than I ever knew. One cannot help but admire the fertility and imagination of the F.P. brain. One feels that Calypsos just may not be so. When I wrote the "If" parody many years ago it took hours and hours and hours and the very thought of doing a reply calypso keeps me awake at nights. So please F.P. accept my unpoetic thanks. The forthcoming handshake will doubtless be accompanied by an appropriate Irish brew with an F.P. Kick in it.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 120 members and friends attended the Annual General Meeting of the MGA, held on Tuesday, 22nd March, at The Connaught Rooms, London.

Special interest was lent to the gathering by the appearance of nearly all the past chairmen of the MGA who are still growing mushrooms.

At the luncheon which followed the Chairman's Reception, Mr. Raymond Thompson (Chairman) presided and Grace was said by a Past Chairman, Capt. G. P. Lawrence. The Loyal Toast was proposed by the Chairman who also later proposed the toast to "Our Guests". The latter included Mr. F. W. Toovey, O.B.E., B.SC., A.R.C.S., A.I.C.T.A., Director of the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute at Littlehampton, who was present with Mrs. Toovey. Also there was Mr. Henry Haynes of the NFU in addition to the following Past Chairmen and their ladies:— Mr. Stanley Middlebrook, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. C. Atkins, Capt. and Mrs. G. P. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bleazard and Mr. H. G. Boxall.

In his luncheon speech the MGA Chairman, Mr. Raymond Thompson said:—

Chairman's Luncheon Speech.

It is my pleasant task on this occasion to propose the health of the Guest of Honour. Unfortunately, he is unable to be here. Mr. Michael Trubshawe is, at this moment, filming in 'The Guns of Navarrone' in Greece. He was to have told us the very funny story of his disastrous experiences as a mushroom grower in Norfolk before the war.

However, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the fifteenth (crystal) anniversary of the Mushroom Growers' Association and so we thought it appropriate to invite as joint Guests of Honour, all the past Chairmen of the Association who are still growing mushrooms. There are, indeed, seven of them here and we hope that each of them will reply for three minutes.

Uffa Fox, the great yacht designer, tells a story in one of his splendid books, about three-minute speeches. A luncheon was given to celebrate the launching of a yacht and all those who had worked on her were invited and asked to make a three-minute speech. Unfortunately, there was a small typing error in the letter inviting the man who had worked on winches. Instead of being requested to talk for three minutes on winches, he was asked to talk for three minutes on wenches! History relates that he was very knowledgeable about both subjects! I can assure you that the secretarial staff of the Mushroom Growers' Association is far above such mistakes.

Chairman's Annual Report.

(MR. RAYMOND THOMPSON).

I have rather a large number of points to deal with in my report. I will deal with each of them as briefly as possible to leave sufficient time for the other reports, and also for the discussion at the end.

The two outstanding events of the year have been the introduction of the Spawn Levy and the Government's Horticultural Grant Aid scheme. Your Executive Committee had become convinced that the voluntary scheme for collecting money for publicity was rapidly weakening. They therefore made very strenuous efforts to reach a voluntary understanding with the spawn manufacturers to bring about a contribution towards publicity on all cartons of spawn sold, whether to MGA members or others. This culminated in a meeting which was presided over by Lord Netherthorpe, then President of the National Farmers' Union. Agreement was not found possible, so your Executive Committee decided unanimously to take a vote upon the Compulsory Scheme from the Grower Members. 81% voted in favour of the scheme and 10° voted against it. As a result, on 1st November, 1959, the payment of the Publicity Spawn Levy as a condition of membership was introduced. The fact that only seven members resigned over this issue is quite remarkable and affords further evidence of the solidarity amongst MGA members. The introduction of this new measure conflicts neither with our own rules nor with those of the National Farmers' Union.

Horticultural Grant Aid Scheme

As you will all know, the Government has introduced a £7,500,000 Grant Aid Scheme for Horticulture. The MGA, working in close co-operation with the N.F.U. has been able to score two notable

achievements. The first was the inclusion of mushroom growing in this scheme: originally we were not even included. The second was the reduction in the area qualification from over 20,000 sq. ft. to about 6,000 sq. ft. of bed area. The total turnover of the Horticultural Industry is £140 million and our contribution to this total is about £7 million. On this basis our benefits from Grant Aid Scheme could be considerable. The Grant is intended to assist in the general efficiency of farms, with particular reference to packing and marketing. There is, however, one exception and that is heating. This will be considered in the same way as other proposed schemes. It will be up to the individual grower



The Retiring Chairman, Raymond Thompson (left) with the new Chairman, P. B. Stanley-Evans

to convince the Ministry Inspector, who will come from the National Agricultural Advisory Service, that his proposals are reasonable and will assist in increased efficiency. If he succeeds, he will receive as a gift, and not a loan, one-third of the cost of the project. It is significant that the Government have no intention whatsoever of giving help towards increased production. They are obviously satisfied that, with regard to horticulture as a whole, production is already quite high enough.

Fertilizer Subsidies.

A case, on behalf of all mushroom growers, has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, contending that whatever fertilizer subsidies are available to other sections of the Horticultural Industry should be available also to mushroom growers without the proviso that used compost must be spread on the grower's own land. The MGA does not expect any preferential treatment in this matter, it is only seeking equality with the other sections of the industry. There are, however, administrative difficulties in this matter. For example, the Ministry are only normally concerned with holdings of one acre and over. After a favourable start, this application is reported to have run into a little rough water, but the Association hopes that the Ministry will grant this application without too much delay. It is certainly not the intention of the Association to let this matter slide. We shall pursue it most vigorously.

1959 Exhibition

The 1959 Exhibition at Folkestone went off without any undue hitches and the support received from the Trade was again very encouraging. It is a fact, however, that these Exhibitions, and for that matter the conferences which the MGA organises, both cost the Association a considerable amount of money. Nevertheless, I think you will agree that both are well worthwhile. I should like to thank the Show Sub-Committee for the part they played.

Court Case—Boletus edulis

No doubt you will recall the Court Case at Chichester, where the West Sussex County Council were unsuccessful in their prosecution of a firm of soup powder manufacturers. This firm admitted to using *Boletus edulis* instead of mushrooms, as we know them, in their soup. This whole matter is still under very active consideration by your Executive Committee, but I feel I should say no more at this point.

1960 Conference and Refresher Course

There will be no Exhibition this year but instead a Conference and Refresher Course to take place at the Grand Atlantic Hotel, Weston-super-Mare, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 10th, 11th and 12th October. The arrangements for this are well in hand.

Membership

The Membership of your Association in 1960 stands at an all-time record, but it is quite significant that the number of Grower Members

in the United Kingdom remains practically static, indicating that the expansion which is taking place in the industry is being undertaken by existing growers rather than by newcomers. With regard to the finances of the Association, your Honorary Treasurer Mr. Filmer will tell you that they are in a very healthy shape. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Filmer on your behalf. I don't think any of us realise how much time and thought Mr. Filmer puts into this work for us.

Publicity

I will leave the subject of publicity to your Publicity Sub-Committee Chairman, Mr. Berry. I should like to thank Mr. Berry and his Sub-Committee for all they have done in the past year. To say that they held a dozen full-day meetings gives little idea of the real amount of time which they put in.

Bulk Oil Scheme

Your Committee have been able to introduce the Bulk Oil Scheme. This scheme now has eighty-one members using between them about a million and a half gallons of fuel oil each year and they are saving a considerable amount of money. The whole success of this Scheme is dependant upon the loyalty of members. There have been one or two disturbing instances where members have accepted individual rebates from other oil firms and not joined in the scheme. They would not, of course, have been able to get this rebate without the operation of the MGA scheme. Nevertheless, it is working successfully and smoothly. It is to be hoped that those oil fuel-using members who are outside the scheme will eventually join. Solidarity is of paramount importance, otherwise all will be lost.

Research

I have served for several years on the Research Sub-Committee and so I would like to say a few words on this subject.

I think that many of us feel that the Research Station should be able to answer any problem in a few minutes and to produce several revolutionary pieces of good news every year. I am afraid research is not quite like that. Nevertheless, Mr. Toovey has carefully and relentlessly built up a very fine team and I think it would be true to say that there are now more research workers involved in the study of mushroom problems at Littlehampton than at any other Mushroom Research Institute in the world. I should add that we have incomplete knowledge of what is going on the other side of the Iron Curtain. In any case, I am confident that in a few years time we shall all be very proud of the work at Littlehampton.

Spent Compost

It appears that some 20% of the members are having difficulty in disposing of their spent compost and this matter is being investigated by your Committee.

Copenhagen

About fifty members of the MGA, including their wives and friends, attended the Fourth International Congress at Copenhagen last July.



FOR

GOOD-SIZED MUSHROOMS

EVERY FLUSH

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ROBERT PATTERSON, B.Sc., B.Ag. (Hons.)

Monlough Food Production Co. Ltd.

BALLYCOWAN - BELFAST

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It was a very strenuous, somewhat confusing, but very rewarding affair. We came away full of new ideas and Danish hospitality. At the final banquet I was able to announce that your Committee had elected Conny Rasmussen an Honorary Life Member of the MGA.

Committee Travelling Expenses

There has been a small change which we hope will encourage those members who live far away from London to stand for election to the Executive Committee. The Association now pays all travelling expenses over and above £5.

Ministry of Agriculture Questionnaire

The Ministry's endeavour to establish the true position of the Mushroom Growing Industry in England and Wales has met with outstanding support from the growers. The questionnaire was a voluntary affair but in spite of this over 80% of the members have, in response to appeals by the Association, given the required information. It is felt that this information will be of real assistance in future negotiations. Our industry has recently received official recognition as the second largest horticultural crop grown under protection in this country—second only to tomatoes.

Committee

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking my Vice-Chairman, Peter Stanley-Evans, and the other members of the Executive Committee for all the help they have given during the past year. They

have been very patient and very

kind.

Staff

There have been two staff changes during the year. Miss Baker has replaced Miss Pasco as Public Relations Officer, and Mrs. Garrett has replaced Miss Zazzi as Assistant Secretary. Both are doing a really first-class job, and I should like to thank them and the Secretary.

I should also like to thank the Horticultural Trade Press. We may not always agree with them but we are, I think, very fortunate in having such a virile and lively trade press. I often wonder if other industries are served so well as we are.



Mrs. Stanley-Evans has a word with a former Chairman, Capt. G. P. Lawrence

The Future

The past fifteen years have seen this Association grow from small beginnings to a closely knit and powerful body, representing the whole mushroom industry. Our Association is the envy of many similar Associations in Horticulture. In this changing world we must cooperate and we must stand solidly together. Your Association has been able to do much for you all in the past and, with your help, will be able to do even more in the future.

- Mr. Middlebrook said the Oil Scheme was a good idea. He himself had not joined because his own company, who had taken an enormous amount of trouble with his boiler, had given him the same terms. He would have liked to join in but he didn't think it was the gentlemanly thing to do. He agreed that no rebate would have been available if the MGA Scheme had not come into being.
- Mr. P. B. Stanley-Evans: It seems to me that it is question of loyalties—either to the MGA or the Oil Company. My own supplier's representative was a personal friend of mine but he quite understood when I made the change to the MGA Scheme.
- Major A. L. A. Dredge, on the question of the Horticultural Grant Aid Scheme warned members that any subsidy on a packing shed would be refused if such a shed incorporated a canteen.
- Mr. P. K. L. Danks (Nottingham) expressed some doubts about the scheme and wondered what tags the Government might impose.

The Secretary said members could not expect grant aid without the Government laying down certain rules. The only tag, as far as he could see, was justification of the proposed expenditure.

After Mr. Fred. C. Atkins had expressed the view that as grants were for a specific purpose, no tags would afterwards be attached Mr. G. V. Allen (Kent), wondered if the one invisible tag might appear if increased tariffs were sought.

The Chairman said he felt the grant had been given without strings and, on the question of tariffs, this had been fought for a long time but there did not seem much chance of success.

The report was adopted, on the proposition of Mr. H. G. Boxall, seconded by Mr. F. Bleazard.

The Chairman announced the Executive Committee election results as follows: —Area Representatives: Messrs. P. B. Stanley-Evans, A. J. Berry and G. V. Allen. General Seats: Mr. J. G. Batchelor (Surrey) and Dr. R. L. Edwards (Rutland).

DISCUSSION ON POLICY

Mr. Atkins said that world research, during the next five years, was liable to overwhelm growers with new thought. Should experimental farms be encouraged to try out new ideas? he asked. Two NAAS Stations, Stockbridge House (Yorks.), and Fairfield (Lancs.), were doing some work but that was not enough.

Great News for Mushroom Growers





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=the answer to Mushroom Pests

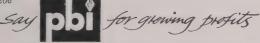
Fill your Mushroom Shed with an insecticidal fog by simply plugging in and pressing a button! Aerocide droplets are projected into the atmosphere with great turbulence and penetration, filling every part of the shed.

Use Aerocide B.H.C. or Malathion for Mushroom flies. Write for leaflet No. 501

and do not forget the leading Dust for | DITHANE DUST PRICES Disease control — Dithane Dust, against 7 lb bags 4/- - 3/9 per lb.* Dactylium (Cobweb) and Mycogone 56 lb bags 3/6 - 3/- per lb.* (Bubble).

*Depending on quantity.

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More and more Growers use

MOUNT Mushroom Spawn every month . . .

Two recent cases of exceptionally good cropping off

MOUNT WHITE GRAIN

One, a shelf grower who on successive crops picked in excess of 3,000 lbs. off 1,500 feet in the remarkably short picking time of 3 weeks 6 days



The other, a tray grower using a shallow tray with not more than 4" of compost, is cropping 390 lbs. of mushrooms to the ton (8 cubic yards) of manure. Both have one thing in common: excellent crops of excellent quality, and of course

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Ask for **SANTOBRITE** Leaflet "THE TRAY CLEANER"

SANTOBRITE ensures a clean start and preserves your trays and woodwork

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The rate of application as a supplement is 4 cwt to a 12 ton stack, and because the essential raw material is under our full control you must insist on the

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- Mr. Middlebrook: Stockbridge has given up mushroom work. I think the Industry should concentrate on marketing rather than growing. Two years ago the period of depressed prices lasted two weeks, now it is two months and might well soon be three. More should be raised and spent on publicity—more growing might result in the closing of some farms.
- Mr. Allen: It is only the efficient growers which are really wanted in an industry. It was all to the good to produce a better stock of growers.
- Mr. Stanley-Evans said our competititors abroad were busy on research and we in this country could not afford to ignore it. We had to carry out an adequate research programme.
- **Dr. R. L. Edwards** made the point that althought 14 people were employed at the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute at Littlehampton, all of them were not engaged on mushrooms. Nevertheless, those who were not formed a wide pool of scientific knowledge which was available to scientists working on experiments. On the subject of over-production, he did not think mushroom growers wanted to get themselves into a situation in which the hop growers now found themselves—limited production and marketing. Mushroom growers were in an expanding industry and, by higher yields and lower production costs, could still make a reasonable profit.
- Mr. R. Dumbreck (Scotland) proposed that representation should be made to the Government, through the MGA Research Committee, for increasing research into mushroom growing problems not only at Littlehampton, but also at other research stations including Stockbridge House. A rider, suggested by Mr. Palfrey, to the affect that experienced staff should be employed at such stations, was also accepted.
- **Dr. Edwards** asked if farm walks could be resumed but an appeal from the Chairman produced no offers. **Mr. G. W. Baker** expressed the hope that every effort would be made to increase Area activities and **Mr. Parker** (Messrs. Coomer) expressed the hope that the Committee would bear in mind that the Trade like to exhibit every year, whether in the North or elsewhere.

PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. A. J. Berry

Surely it is my first duty to thank every member for subscribing so much money towards publicity during 1959. The magnificent total of £8,000 as compared with £4,000 the previous year, will enable your committee to plan along quite different lines and, as I believe that in publicity an investment of £1,000 produces far greater results than twice that obtained by spending £500. I feel sure that we are stepping out in the right direction towards maintaining prices to meet the ever increasing production.

Before proceeding with the details of the report I must make my second point of thanking the members of this year's committee, actually the same as last year's, who have given so much of their time and have so loyally supported me throughout the year; for you must realise that with more money to spend, more time and thought have to be given to its spending.

And my third word of thanks is to the spawn manufacturers, for the closer co-operation hoped for last year has indeed materialised, and we are very grateful for this essential goodwill in the business end

of the campaign.

And now to mention some of last year's activities. I do not think I can improve on the Secretary's report on the television advertising from Birmingham, which appeared in the *Bulletin* I will be honest and confess to some disappointment at the inconclusive results but I feel that the effort was worthwhile and that, had we applied this publicity to any other time of the year, results would have been more apparent. We did, however, deliberately set ourselves the task of trying to improve the poor prices obtained in the summer months, which surely is the serious concern of every grower today.

As the Chairman has just told you, our Public Relations Department was taken over by Miss Baker in August, 1959, and your committee feel that we are now getting somewhere with this all-important part of our work. Displays, cookery demonstrations, competitions, exhibitions and mushroom weeks, far too numerous for me to mention detail here, have all been arranged and staffed as and when necessary. I can assure you that our product is now *expected* to appear in all these National Exhibitions and the organisers are far more keen to see us than they were a few years ago. Not even the Lord Mayor's Show was missed, which incidentally provided good press and television publicity.

The long-term policy of educating the coming generation to automatically think of mushrooms as an item of the ordinary shopping list has been continued and by far the majority of enquiries for information and recipes have come from the educational bodies through our advertisement in 'Home Economics.' The next logical step has now been taken and wall charts with teaching notes are now being prepared. A sample wall chart will be found on display.

Press cuttings have increased, particularly for the last three months of the last year, following a very successful Handout in September. Altogether we recorded over eleven thousand column inches, and as this is free advertising of a most desirable kind we have every reason to be pleased. Miss Baker now informs me that from the encouraging start already made this year she confidentally expects this figure to be

exceeded.

Our still successful Publicity Paper Bag Scheme has been pushed along this year—sales having reached a total of just on 12 million, a considerable improvement on last year. And more important was the fact that a new printer, covering a new area of the country, has now at last been found.

We set out this year to make "Point of Sale" material the chief target and after examining many schemes which, mainly on account of



Sydney J. Pointing with Mrs. Barrett, the daughter of Mr. J. E. R. Simons

production and/or distribution costs, had to be given up, we feel that the chip basket cover principle is the answer. You will see the sample here to-day and the idea is for all Grower Members to use this cover which, owing to the large order we have been able to place, will be available at about 7s. per gross. With perhaps a possible exception, most of us will be able to save some money and keep the retailer constantly supplied with clean, topical point of sale material, without further expense to the Association. Subject to adequate support this economical price should be maintained and will cover new designs to meet the 'publicity plug' of the moment.

Paid-for press advertising is restricted to the following women's

magazines, chosen because of their reading public and their advertising rates:— "Woman's Companion", "Woman's Journal", "The Townswoman", and "Home and Country". The retail trade is also being kept well informed of our activities through other advertisements in their trade paper.

All these activities designed to interest the public in our product in some way, result in an ever-increasing demand for recipe leaflets, etc., and a large sum of money has to be allocated for this purpose. A new leaflet on basic mushroom cookery is being printed, and the recipe library on view today is invaluable when we are called upon to suggest a special recipe to a journalist's requirements.

So much for a summary of last year's efforts. Next year with such a healthy bank balance and, most important of all, an assured income, it is proposed to investigate the possibility of a National Mushroom Week and Public Transport Advertising. The ladies of the Press are being invited to another Mushroom Feast similar to the outstanding success of 1957. This time, by kind permission of Mr. Derek Clifford, they will visit Fort Darland Mushroom Farm at Gillingham. Most of the journey will be by launch down the Thames and these wonderful people are such good friends of ours that we hope that the sun will shine to give them an enjoyable day to remember.

Finally, I would like to make an appeal—no, not for more money—but for every Member to help himself, the Committee, and every fellow member by organising some form of local publicity once or twice a year. Banners, posters, stickers and recipes and £5 towards the cost

will be supplied out of publicity funds for any approved scheme. One such successful afternoon was a farm walk for local greengrocers, who then returned to their shops far more interested and sales conscious about mushrooms, which up till then had just been something to sell when asked for. Personally, I find local sales are increased by supplying all my customers in one town with a box of growing mushrooms for their window display. This leads me to another request: if any of you have any bright ideas in this connection, or along other lines, please let your committee know. They may have the time and the money to use it. At least, I can assure you that all suggestions are given very careful thought.

You will have seen the van transfers on show today. These are very cheap and more practical than expensive sign writing, and we ask you to use them as extensively as possible and so not to miss any opportunity of constantly reminding the public of our product.

Programme now in hand

Wall charts, to go out to establishments in which Domestic Science is taught, are costing £550 for 3,000, to which must be added the cost of teaching notes which will accompany each chart. The expenditure for 1959-60 is as follows:—

Point of Sale Material	£1,300
Paper Bag Subsidy	£1,000
Institutional Development and leaflets (inc. Wall Charts)	£1,250
Display Advertising (paid-for space) in various magazines	£1,000
Public Relations	£2,000
Exhibitions and Demonstrations	£400
General Administration	£1,000

Mr. E. Palfrey (Harpenden) said the Publicity paper bags were not competitive in price with other bags on the market and he felt that every effort should be made to make them competitive.

The Secretary said he did not think the Association could compete with Ffyes bags (which had been mentioned) but the price for the smaller bags was now down to 11/- per thousand. Mr. Palfery agreed to put his points on paper.

Mr. Middlebrook recalled that he had, some years before, suggested that the Publicity Levy should be 1/- per spawn carton. The 3d. now being collected was simply not enough. He asked whether the 3d. per per carton would raise as much in a year as the 6d. voluntary levy did. Mr. T. J. Berry said he thought it would

Dr. R. L. Edwards (Rutland) said he thought the results of the T.V. campaign were disappointing although true assessment was difficult. It had some effect in the East Midlands, he thought, and he wondered if, in fact, more mushrooms than usual had, in fact been sold.

When the **Chairman** asked if any growers present had consigned more mushrooms to the Midlands than usuaul, whilst the T.V. campaign was on, five said they had whilst five others said they had sent the same

as the previous year, or less.

Mr. T. J. Rudkin (Surrey) said that a survey of the retailers and some wholesalers had been carried out. The representative of Francis Nicholls had said that if any mushrooms were left over at the end of normal trading they were auctioned, so in fact, none were left. It would thus be difficult to make comparisons but retailers, generally, did not think the campaign a success. Mr. Berry pointed out that A. G. Linfield Ltd., had achieved success with their T.V. publicity efforts but they carried out publicity at a more favourable time. The MGA publicity on T.V. was during the depressed price months. Mr. Stanley-Evans suggested that, if another T.V. campaign took place, a similar area, without T.V. publicity, should be evaluated for comparison.

The Chairman said he had found it well worth while to increase local sales and his personal experience of pre-packs was that they found

a good outlet in butchers shops.

Mr. Berry, as Chairman of the Publicity Committee, exhibited a chip cover carrying publicity material and said these were to be made available to MGA members at 49/- per thousand. The chip covers were continually going into retailers' shops and that would ensure a supply of clean price tickets.

Mr. J. E. R. Simons recalled that, some years before, he had designed a similar chip cover—retailers had to be persuaded to use it. The Chairman commented that full publicity would be given to the idea, to

retailers through their own journal.

The Publicity Report was adopted, on the proposition of Dr. Edwards, seconded by Capt. G. P. Lawrence.

HONORARY TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. F. L. Filmer

It is my pleasure to present to you the Accounts for our Financial Year ended on 31st October last.

In the hope that these Accounts are clear and self-explanatory I do not propose to weary you more than necessary with these financial matters after the much more interesting matters which we have

been discussing.

First I will deal with the Publicity Fund, which will now for the first time have a stable and calculable income, thanks to the 3d. per carton of spawn which ALL MGA Grower Members are now contributing. Until now it has never been possible to anticipate what the revenue would be from year to year and this explains why there was a considerable excess of Income over Expenditure last year. The Publicity Sub-Committee very wisely budgeted on the conservative side, not knowing how much revenue they could expect.



Copies of this composite cartoon can be had from the MGA Office at 2/6d. or individual caricatures can be had from the artist at 10/6d. each.

As regards the general finances of the Association itself, last year was a very satisfactory one. There was in fact a surplus of £406 on the year, which is a considerable improvement over the previous year when there were certain exceptional expenses. The comparative figures for the previous year are shown on the Accounts on p. 000 so I will only pick out one item for mention as being the main contributor to our improved finances. This is, of course, members' subscriptions and it is most gratifying to be able to record the excellent increase in the number of members.

In conclusion, I can only say that so far as my memory goes over the past twelve years, the financial position of the Mushroom Growers' Association has never been better.

NOTE: The a/cs., showing an excess of Income over Expenditure of £406 on the General a/c. and £1,595 on the Publicity a/c., will be published in full in the June (No. 126) $\it Bulletin$.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

(Mr. W. R. Alderton)

Membership. I have particular pleasure this year in being able to report a record paid-up membership of six hundred and ninety-seven, made up of two hundred and sixty United Kingdom growers (an increase of ten over the last year), one hundred and ninty-five Overseas Growers (an increase of thirty) and two hundred and forty-two Associate Members (an increase of twenty-one). The total membership on the books is seven hundred and eighty, to which should be added some fifty Honorary or Life Members, making a grand total of eight hundred and thirty. It is significant that the U.K. Grower Membership remains pretty constant and emphasises three points, (a) that what expansion is taking place in the industry is being carried out by existing growers, (b) that the immediate future of the industry is fairly and squarely in the hands of those growers—which is probably a very good thing for everyone concerned, and (c) it seems quite evident that today's U.K. growers are well equipped to take care of any increased demand.

The Bulletin. I do not pretend I am always happy about the Bulletin. Indeed, I am a little unhappy today in that the March issue has been delayed, due to a hold-up at the printers and to circumstances outside their control. It is a rare thing for our printers to experience: they did a magnificent job in getting the Bulletin out throughout the printing strike.

The Association owes a great debt to Mr. F. C. Atkins and Dr. R. L. Edwards, not only for their work on the Editorial Board but for the many tasks they both cheerfully undertake outside the Board's work. I am grateful to the contributors, both regular and irregular, and also to the advertisers, who are as loyal a band as any publication could wish to have.

Executive Committee. Your Executive Committee met five times and the attendances were:— Mr. Raymond Thompson (Chairman), Mr. P. B. Stanley-Evans, (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. F. C. Atkins, G. W. Baker and E. A. Gook—5 times; Mr. F. L. Filmer (Honorary Treasurer), Messrs A. J. Berry, J. A. Linfield and G. V. Reed—4 times; Messrs. N. R. Cooper, R. D. Dumbreck, G. C. Griffiths and J. Stewart-Wood—3 times; Mr. A. A. Spencer—twice; and Mr. R. Pinkerton—once.

Publicity Sub-Committee. This committee met twelve times and the attendances were: — Mr. G. W. Baker (12), Mr. A. J. Berry (Chairman), Messrs. P. B. Stanley-Evans and T. J. Rudkin (11), Mr. Raymond Thompson (10), Mr. F. L. Filmer (7), and Mr. Graham Griffiths (3).

NEW MGA CHAIRMAN

At the subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee, Mr. P. B. Stanley-Evans was elected Chairman with Mr. Graham Griffiths Vice-Chairman.

DO YOU WANT TO SAVE MONEY?

Arrangements have been made with the Houndsditch Warehouse Co. Ltd., of Houndsditch, London, E.C.3 (near Liverpool Street Station) whereby MGA members can purchase a wide range of household and other goods at wholesale prices.

Members who wish to avail themselves of this service should write to the MGA Secretary for an Authorisation Card and should write to the Sales Manager of the Houndsditch Warehouse Co. Ltd.,for a copy of the firm's current catalogue.

MAJOR A. L. A. DREDGE

Major A. L. A. Dredge of Combe Bank Market Gardens, Sunbridge, Kent, has been re-appointed to the Council of the Produce Pre-Packaging and Development Association where, for some years, he has watched over the interests of mushroom growers. His recent appointment to the Editorial Board of "The Grower" will further the interests of mushroom growers and particularly with regard to pre-packing, for which Major Dredge has displayed much enthusiasm for some years.

LAST MONTH'S PUBLICITY CONTRIBUTORS

Salesmen:	£	S.	d.
*Jackson & Lakin, Ltd., Nottingham	4	8	4
G. E. Leatherland Ltd., 20-22 St. Andrew's Street, Newcastle-			
on-Tyne	44	6	3

*†Spawn Merchants:

W. Darlington & Sons Ltd., Southcourt Road, Worthing. Monlough Food Production Co., Ltd., Ballygowan, Belfast.

H. Mount & Sons Ltd., Littlebourne, Canterbury. S. A. F. Sampson Ltd., Oving, Chichester.

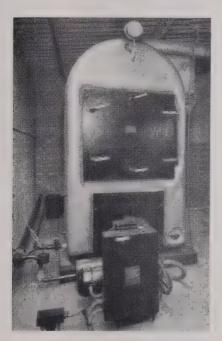
* Previous contributions already acknowledged.

† Amounts collected by Spawn Merchants are not for publication.

HORTICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

BURGESS & CO. (**ENGINEERS**) LTD., place their unrivalled experience in Mushroom House Heating at growers' service in the preparation of acceptable schemes to improve their heating systems, which will qualify for the **Government Grant** of I/3rd of the capital cost.

A No. 10/S BURGESS BOILER, made at Bracknell



This boiler at present carries out AUTOMATICALLY the heating of FIVE GROWING HOUSES, ONE SPAWN ROOM and ONE PEAK HEAT ROOM. It is rated at 1,000,000 BTU/HR and is capable of heating TWICE its present area. The boiler is fired by a Brockhouse heavy oil burner and is fully automatic in operation. Thermostatic control of the heating in the various houses is by one motorised valve and a wandering thermostat which may be plugged into any one house. Peak heating is carried out by using gilled tube in the house and fitting a transportable "SPARGE" pipe at low level for "LIVE" steam injection. The heating lines in the growing houses are 3/ bore each with a steam trap and hand isolating valve.

THIS INSTALLATION HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT FOR A. J. MAXWELL, Esq., CHESHUNT, HERTS.

We are Specialists in Heating Mushroom Farms & Glasshouses

CONSULT US NOW
HIRE PURCHASE CAN BE ARRANGED

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LEITH EDINBURGH Tel.: Leith 31056

175

IMPORTS FROM EIRE UP-VALUE DOWN

Dutch and West Germans Market Peep

The Dutch did, after all, have a look at the English mushroom market in 1959, for, in the summer months they sent in 11 cwts. of chilled or fresh mushrooms which realised £201 (about 3/3d. per 1b.) and in December, 1959, the West Germans sent 9 cwts. for £204 (about $4/0\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 1b.). There was also 1 cwt. from Austria and these were probably dried, the price returned being about 7/- per 1b.

Most significant feature of the Eire imports is contained in the fact that although 1,213 cwts. more were sent to this country from that source, the value was down by £25,059.

Month		1958	1959	1958	1959
		Cwts.		£'s Sterling	
January		993	686	15,673	11,752
February		747	2,095	12,216	14,335
March		982	789	17,214	13,642
April		851	871	14,765	14,350
May		996	880	17,181	14,306
June		951	1,762	16,767	19,571
July		853	755	15,165	10,089
August		573	669	9,480	5,758
September		854	685	15,179	9,762
October		1,035	766	16,799	11,712
November		904	735	15,131	11,421
December		656	915	10,399	14,212
TOTAL		10,395	11,608	175,969	150,910

Note: The total import for 1954, was 6,303 cwts., realising £110,608; 1955, was 6,972 cwts., 1956, was 9,039 cwts., and 1957, was 9,172 cwts., realising £146,441.

In 1959, imports from France totalled 158 cwts. (£2,422). There were also small imports of fresh or chilled mushrooms from the Netherlands totalling 11 cwts. (£201), from Western Germany totalling 9 cwts. (£204), and from Austria totalling 1 cwt. (£40).

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203. I, almost alone, advocate either a control of production to keep supply just a fraction below demand (Pinhead 195) or a substantial increase in Publicity contributions up to 1/- per spawn carton (A.G.M. and elsewhere) to increase demand to the level of supply. In the April Bulletin the Editor suggests we maintain a sufficient supply to keep retail prices low to prevent overseas growers glutting us. Very fine, very philanthropic. But to keep retail prices low enough would mean a near loss for many growers because of the two factors of over-supply and high percentage of profits taken between the grower and the consumer. Is it wrong for a British grower to aim at a good profit, bearing in mind the hazards of the business—the possibility of a sudden collapse by pest, disease and so on? (A small profit on a guaranteed production, as in some industries, is a different matter). Is it wrong to keep supply slightly below demand, even if demand is greatly increased by publicity? Yes it is—say you all. It's wrong and it's impossible. You can't control it. Expansion is inevitable, right, proper and healthy. Yet your Editor, irresponsibly contradicting himself and presumably speaking for the MGA as a whole, adds this: "If the supply in this country is sufficient to keep the market returns at a reasonable level . . . possible competitors from overseas would find the English market unprofitable, and would be compelled to look elsewhere, or to keep their own production down to an economic level." (My italics.) Now there's a slip up if you like! Do we concede that overseas growers have enough sense to keep their production down to an economic level while openly admitting that we haven't? Was I right about the grey matter, after all?

204. At a modest estimate one large grower in the south who must be named "X", produces approximately 20 lb. of mushrooms to our 1 lb. Every time we gather in 3/- he gathers £3. It sound quite discouraging. But wait—let's discourage him. According to the press a certain motor firm is stepping up its production to the point where it will turn out three cars to every 20 lb. of mushrooms picked by "X". At say £400 a car this firm gathers in £1,200 to every £3 "X" gets. But wait till it gets a disease!

999

1960 CONFERENCE—BOOK NOW

Arrangements are nearing completion for 12 speakers to give various papers at the 1960 MGA Conference, which takes place at the Grand Atlantic Hotel, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, commencing with the usual "Get Together" at the hotel on the evening of Monday, 10th October, and ending on Wednesday, 12th October. With the exception of the golf competition, all the remainder of the programme will take place in the hotel and, as accommodation there is strictly limited, members are advised to make enquiries without delay. For those booking for three nights, as is the case with most of the Executive Committee, the terms per head are two guineas per day.

In addition to the lectures, there will be the usual mushroom com-

petitions and also a Reception and a Dance.

COVENT GARDEN PILFERING

Prison Sentences: 6 months to 2 Years

At the Old Bailey, London, on 4th March, ten Covent Garden porters were given gaol sentences ranging from six months to two years, on charges of stealing vegetables, including mushrooms, from Covent Garden. The case was earlier reported in Bulletin No. 122 (February, 1960).

John Joseph White (30) of Sandringham Road, Hackney, said by Det. Insp. Howlett to be "... the director of operations, in fact, the brains behind it all" was sent to prison for two years. Two others received gaol sentences of 15 months, six of nine months each and one of six months. The charges against four other men were dismissed.

1960 PUBLICITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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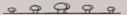
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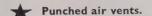
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